

REMARKS

With this Preliminary Amendment, Claims 1-34 have been canceled without prejudice and new Claims 35-61 have been added. Thus, after entry of this Preliminary Amendment, Claims 35-61 are pending in the instant Application.

Applicants have canceled Claims 1-34 and added new Claims 35-61 solely to accelerate prosecution of the present application. Claims 1-34 have not been canceled for any reason relating to the patentability of those claims. Applicants intend to prosecute canceled Claims 1-34 in one or more continuation, divisional and/or continuation-in-part applications. Hence, cancellation of Claims 1-34 is done without prejudice to Applicants and with notice to others that Applicants have no intention of abandoning the subject matter of these Claims.

NEW CLAIMS

Support for new Claim 35, 36-40, 42-46, 47-50, 51-52, 54-57, 59 and 60 can be found in originally filed Claims 1, 4-8, 9-13, 17-20, 22-23, 26-29, 33 and 34, respectively. New Claims 41 and 53 are supported by the Specification at page 11, line 22 to page 13, line 2 and page 25, lines 12-29, respectively. New Claim 58 is supported by the Specification at page 13, line 28 and page 15, lines 19-25.

No new matter is added by the addition of new Claims 35-61. Entry thereof into the instant Application is proper and therefore, kindly requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all pending Claims of the captioned Application satisfy all requirements for patentability and are in condition for allowance. An early indication of the same is therefore respectfully requested.

No fees are believed due in connection with this Preliminary Amendment. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any required fee not included with this Preliminary Amendment or credit any overpayment to Cooley Godward LLP Deposit Account No. 03-3117. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed for such purpose.

If the Examiner determines that prosecution of the instant application would benefit from a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (650)-843-5876.

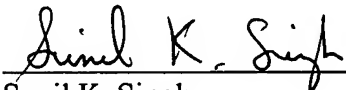
Date: December 12, 2003

Cooley Godward LLP
Attn: Patent Group
Five Palo Alto Square
3000 El Camino Real
Palo Alto, CA 94306-2155
Tel: (650) 843-5000
Fax: (650) 857-0663

665552 v1/PA

Respectfully submitted,
COOLEY GODWARD LLP

By:


Sunil K. Singh
Reg. No. 45,298